

In re Patent Application of:

LAMY ET AL

Serial No. 09/981,047

Filed: OCTOBER 16, 2001

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly characterize Applicants' invention in a manner which is believed to patentably distinguish the same over the cited prior art. Reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-20 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102, as allegedly being anticipated by the patent to Nixon et al, 5,475,743, for the reasons set forth in item 3 bridging pages 2-6 of the outstanding Office Action, is respectfully traversed.

Prior to discussing the shortcomings of the prior art relied upon in the outstanding Office Action, the present invention will be briefly reviewing in order that differences between the cited prior art patent to Nixon et al and the claims of the present application, particularly in light of the above amendments, may be more readily appreciated.

The present invention provides the ability to adapt a customer's device to variations in number dialing schemes by a number substitution mechanism that is executable by a call routing software employed by the device's microcontroller and an associated set of templates that allow for the selective modification of any of the digits of which the telephone number is comprised.

In order to underscore this feature, each of independent Claims 1, 9 and 18 has been amended to recite the fact that the number substitution mechanism is operative to automatically selectively modify any of all of the digits of which the

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destination number is comprised.

In contrast thereto, the telephone number processing system employed by Nixon et al is concerned only with the inclusion of or the deletion of a prefix ahead of the seven-digit number of interest. Indeed, those portions of the patent to Nixon et al referenced in item 3 (a) on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action deal with prefix changes only. Nowhere in the patent to Nixon et al is there any disclosure of the capability of modifying any of all of the digits of which the telephone number is comprised. In fact, Nixon et al makes a special effort not to modify the last seven digits. As such, since these digits are not modifiable, Nixon et al does not provide the ability to selectively modify any of all of the digits of the telephone number, as characterized in Applicants' amended claims.

It is believed that the foregoing amendment succinctly distinguishes the ability of the invention to modify any digit within all of the digits of telephone number of interest, as compared, or more correctly contrasted, with the methodology of Nixon et al which is concerned only with the addition or removal or a prefix from the base telephone number.

Upon reconsideration it is respectfully submitted that it will be realized that the presently amended claims are not anticipated in the sense of 35 U.S.C. 102 by the patent to Nixon et al and, accordingly, are patentable.

Of course, if upon taking the application up for reexamination, the Examiner is of the opinion that any further minor amendments would be in order, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below so that such amendments may be considered and, where

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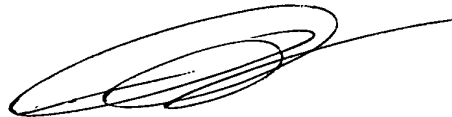
appropriate, effected.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-0484 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: M/S Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 10 day of September, 2004.

